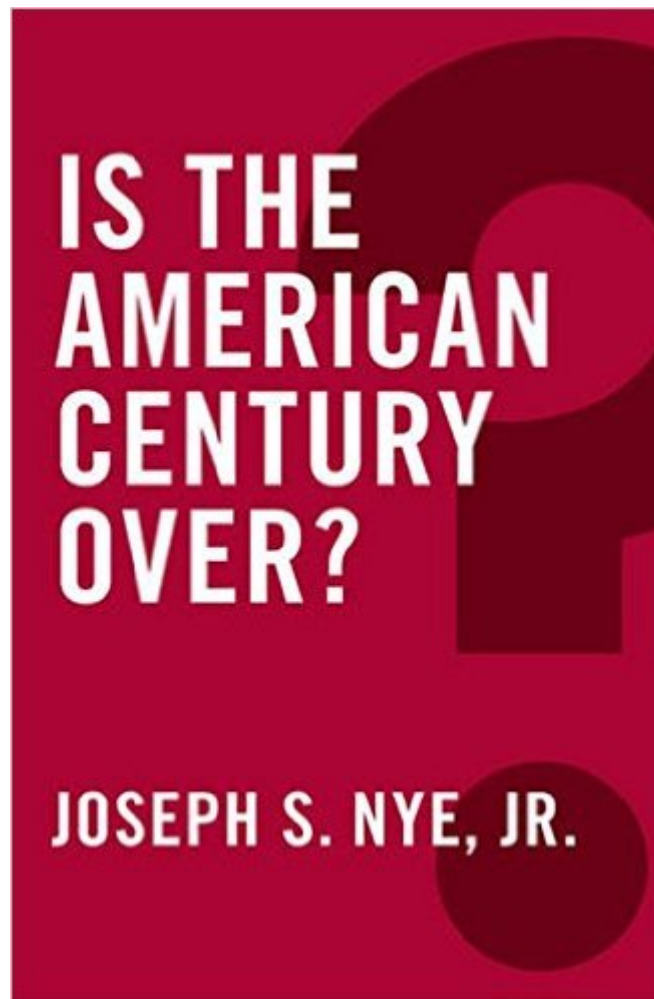


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Is The American Century Over? (Global Futures)



Synopsis

For more than a century, the United States has been the world's most powerful state. Now some analysts predict that China will soon take its place. Does this mean that we are living in a post-American world? Will China's rapid rise spark a new Cold War between the two titans? In this compelling essay, world renowned foreign policy analyst, Joseph Nye, explains why the American century is far from over and what the US must do to retain its lead in an era of increasingly diffuse power politics. America's superpower status may well be tempered by its own domestic problems and China's economic boom, he argues, but its military, economic and soft power capabilities will continue to outstrip those of its closest rivals for decades to come.

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Customer Reviews

Joseph Nye does paint an optimistic future of the United States as a world power, amid all the gloom and doom of its much talked about decline. He also points out America's present day problems, but in a way that they are not as bad as they seem, especially when compared to other countries. Other countries either have the same problems as we, sometimes worse, or problems we don't have that can be their pitfalls. Nye, however, does point out that the U.S. itself needs to deal with its present problems, or it will decline, so the picture is rosy, but not that rosy. The book starts with when the American Century began. It either began in 1914, at the beginning of World War I, or in 1941, when Pearl Harbor was bomb, leading our entry into World War II, and discusses

briefly on each date, including our isolation between the wars, and how we finally came to the forefront to stay. We are often compared to the British, comparing them to other empires of the day, and how they took the lead. It is interesting to note that they had their empire for two centuries, rising to the peak after losing the American colonies. What brought their empire down was competition with Germany and the U.S. in industries, not the military, especially in the production of steel. Britain would not change with the rest of the world in modern technology, and that is an ingredient for the downfall of any society. The two world wars were the nails in their coffin. What is really shown here is a chapter comparing the present state of the U.S. to other countries supposedly of the rise: Europe, Japan, India, Russia, Brazil, and especially China, America's newest competitor and threat. Japan, back in the 1980s, was thought to replace the U.S.

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